Standard Test Method for Rubber from Synthetic Sources—Carbon Black in Masterbatches¹

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1. Scope

1.1 These test methods for the determination of the amount of carbon black in a masterbatch cover emulsion SBR-carbon black mixtures, but may be applicable to other polymers. Three test methods are included:

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Inert Atmosphere Pyrolysis	3-10
Vacuum Pyrolysis	11-17
Thermogravimetric Analyzer	18-24

Note 1—The nomenclature used in these test methods is in accordance with Practice D 1418.

- 1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.
- 1.3 This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.

2. Referenced Documents

- 2.1 ASTM Standards:
- D 1418 Practice for Rubber and Rubber Latices— Nomenclature²
- D 6370 Test Method for Rubber Compositional Analysis by Thermogravimetry TGA ²

CARBON BLACK

Inert Atmosphere Pyrolysis Test Method

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 The prepared dried sample and a sample of standard SBR black determinate are tested in triplicate. The samples are weighed accurately into tared crucibles and then placed in a combustion tube at 550°C, which is continuously flushed with CO₂ until the rubber hydrocarbon is distilled. The crucibles and contents are cooled in a desiccator, weighed, then inserted into a muffle furnace at 550°C until all carbonaceous material is burned. The crucible and contents are again cooled in a desiccator and weighed. The percentage of carbon black is

calculated from the weights.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The carbon black content of an unvulcanized black or oil-black SBR masterbatch may be determined by this test method if an inert (CO_2) atmosphere and a determinate³ of known carbon black content are available.

5. Apparatus

- 5.1 Drying Oven.
- 5.2 Porcelain Crucibles, No. 00000, tared.
- 5.3 Weighing Bottles, tared.
- 5.4 Fused Alumina Combustion Boats. 4
- 5.5 Combustion Tubes. ⁵
- 5.6 Combustion Furnace.

6. Reagents

6.1 *Purity of Reagents*—Reagent grade chemicals shall be used in all tests. Unless otherwise indicated, it is intended that all reagents conform to the specifications of the Committee on Analytical Reagents of the American Chemical Society, where such specifications are available.⁶ Other grades may be used, provided it is first ascertained that the reagent is of sufficiently high purity to permit its use without lessening the accuracy of the determination.

7. Preparation of Sample

7.1 Blend 200 g of dried sample obtained in accordance with 4.1 or 9.1 by passing it five times between the rolls of a laboratory mill. Maintain the roll temperature at 50 ± 5 °C (122)

 $^{^{\}rm 1}$ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D11 on Rubber and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D11.11 on Chemical Analysis.

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² Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 09.01.

³ Determinate black masterbatch may be prepared by careful addition of exact amounts of rubber and carbon black on a mill. An alternative would be a thorough blending of a quantity of black masterbatch and determination of the carbon black by use of a previously established determinate.

⁴ Alundum No. 3 combustion boats have been found satisfactory for this purpose.

⁵ The McDaniel high-temperature combustion tube, 30 in. (762 mm) long by 1 in. (25.4 mm) in diameter, or equivalent, is recommended. This tube will accommodate a maximum of two combustion boats containing six samples each within the heated area of the furnace. Suitable vacuum combustion tubes may be obtained from Dunlap and Co., 623 Staring Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70810.

⁶ Reagent Chemicals, American Chemical Society Specifications, American Chemical Society, Washington, DC. For suggestions on the testing of reagents not listed by the American Chemical Society, see Analar Standards for Laboratory Chemicals, BDH Ltd., Poole, Dorset, U.K., and the United States Pharmacopeia and National Formulary, U.S. Pharmaceutical Convention, Inc. (USPC), Rockville, MD.



 \pm 9°F) and a distance between the rolls of 0.5 \pm 0.13 mm (0.020 \pm 0.005 in.). After blending, sheet the sample from the mill with the distance between the rolls set at 0.25 \pm 0.05 mm (0.010 \pm 0.002 in.). Dry approximately 2 g of the blended, thinly sheeted material for 1 h in the oven at 100 \pm 5°C (212 \pm 9°F). Keep the dried sheet in a desiccator until ready to weigh the samples.

8. Procedure

- 8.1 Into the tared porcelain crucibles accurately weigh three 0.3 to 0.5-g samples from the sheet of material being tested and three 0.3 to 0.5-g samples from a similarly prepared sheet of standard SBR black determinate.³ Due to the hygroscopic nature of the samples and the carbon black, weigh the crucibles and contents in the tared weighing bottles.
- 8.2 Place the six crucibles in a fused alumina combustion boat, or boats, alternating the samples of determinate and the test samples. Insert the combustion boat, or boats, into the combustion tube. Pass a stream of oxygen-free CO2 through the tube at a flow rate of 150 to 240 cm³ (atmospheric pressure)/min. After the tube has been swept free of oxygen (approximately 5 min is sufficient time), place it in the combustion furnace maintained at a temperature of 550 ± 25°C, and distill off the rubber hydrocarbon. Continue to pass CO₂ through the tube, while allowing the tube to remain in the furnace for 30 min. At the end of this period, remove the combustion tube from the furnace and allow it to cool, meanwhile continuing the flow of CO₂ through it. When it is cool, remove the boat, or boats, and place the crucibles in a dessiccator until they cool to room temperature and are ready to be weighed. Accurately weigh the crucibles and contents.
- 8.3 After weighing the crucibles containing the carbon black residues, ignite the samples by either of the following methods:
- 8.3.1 Place the crucibles and contents in a combustion boat, or boats, and insert them into a second combustion tube. Place the tube in a combustion furnace maintained at $550 \pm 25^{\circ}$ C and pass a stream of oxygen or air through the tube.
- 8.3.2 Alternately, place the crucibles and contents in a muffle furnace maintained at 550 ± 25 °C. After the carbon has been completely burned, remove the boat, or boats, from the muffle furnace and place the crucibles in a desiccator. When the crucibles have cooled to room temperature, weigh them.

9. Calculation

9.1 Calculate the percentage of ash, *R*, in the dry sample as follows:

$$R = [(F - E)/(D - E)] \times 100 \tag{1}$$

where:

F = mass of crucible plus ash after ignition of the carbon black, g,

E = mass of crucible, g, and

D = mass of original dry sample plus crucible, g.

9.2 Calculate the individual values, c_1 , c_2 , and c_3 , for carbon black content of the material being tested on the dry, ash-free basis as follows:

$$c = 100(Q - F)/(D - E)(1 - 0.01R)$$
(2)

where:

- Q = mass of crucible and residue after distillation of hydrocarbon, g, and F, D, E, and R are defined as in 9.1.
- 9.3 Calculate the individual values, c_1' , c_2' , and c_3' , for carbon black content of the standard SBR carbon black determinate³ on the dry, ash-free basis as directed in 3.1.2, using the appropriate values obtained on the samples of the determinate.
- 9.4 Calculate the corrected percentage of carbon black in the material being tested as follows:

Carbon black,
$$\% = C + A - C'$$
 (3)

where:

- C = average of the three values of percentage carbon black (c_1 , c_2 , and c_3) on the dry, ash-free basis, obtained on the material being tested,
- A = percentage of carbon black assigned as the standard value for the standard SBR carbon black determinate,
- C' = average of the three values of percentage carbon black, c_1' , c_2' , and c_3' , on the dry, ash-free basis, obtained on the standard carbon black determinate.

10. Precision and Bias

10.1 Precision and bias have not been determined.

Vacuum Pyrolysis Test Method

11. Summary of Test Method

11.1 The prepared dried sample is tested in triplicate. The samples accurately are weighed into tared crucibles and placed in a combustion tube and maintained under very low pressure at 600°C until the rubber is distilled. The samples are cooled and returned to atmospheric pressure. The crucibles and contents are then further cooled in a desiccator and weighed. The percentage of carbon black is calculated on an ash-free basis.

12. Significance and Use

12.1 Carbon black in unvulcanized carbon black or oil-carbon black SBR masterbatch may be determined by this test method without the use of a determinate sample.

13. Apparatus

- 13.1 Porcelain Crucible, No. 00000.
- 13.2 Combustion Boats, sized to accommodate crucibles.
- 13.3 Combustion Tube, high-silica (see Fig. 1).5
- 13.4 Combustion Furnace, capable of controlling temperature at 600 ± 25 °C.
 - 13.5 Vacuum Pump.
 - 13.6 Vacuum Seal Lubricant for ground-glass joint.
 - 13.7 Muffle Furnace, capable of controlling at 550 ± 25 °C.
 - 13.8 Drying Oven, capable of controlling at 105 ± 5 °C.
 - 13.9 Insertion Rod.
- 13.10 *Trap*, to condense vapors coming from combustion tube (see Fig. 1).



VACUUM COMBUSTION TUBE

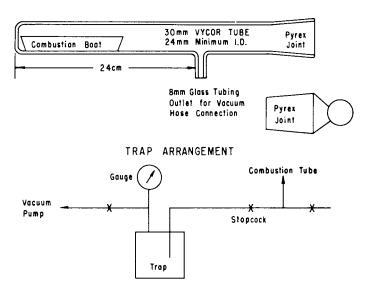


FIG. 1 Vacuum Combustion Tube and Trap Arrangement

14. Preparation of Sample

14.1 Blend 200 g of the dried sample obtained in accordance with 4.1 or 9.1 by passing it five times between the rolls of a laboratory mill. Maintain the roll temperature at $50 \pm 5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($122 \pm 9^{\circ}\text{F}$) and a distance between the rolls of 0.5 ± 0.13 mm (0.20 ± 0.005 in.). After blending, sheet the sample from the mill with the distance between the rolls set at 0.25 ± 0.05 mm (0.010 ± 0.002 in.). Dry approximately 2 g of the blended, thinly sheeted material for 1 h in the oven at $105 \pm 5^{\circ}\text{C}$. Keep the dried sheet in a desiccator until ready to weigh the samples.

15. Procedure

15.1 Place into a tared crucible 0.3 to 0.5 g (to the nearest 0.1 mg) from the sheet of material being tested. Using the insertion rod, insert the boat containing the crucibles into the tube to maximum depth. Insert the ground-glass stopper coated properly with vacuum seal lubricant, turn on the vacuum pump, and evacuate the tube to less than 1.3 kPa.

15.2 Introduce the combustion tube into the combustion furnace maintained at 600 ± 25 °C, using care not to rotate the tube or otherwise cause sample disturbance. Allow the tube to remain in the furnace for 10 min, maintaining maximum pressure of 1.3 kPa (10 mm Hg) during combustion. Remove the tube from the furnace, allow the tube and contents to cool for 7 min, and slowly allow pressure to increase to prevent blowing residue out of crucible.

15.3 Remove the boat and place it in a desiccator to cool to room temperature. Weigh each crucible and residue to the nearest 0.1 mg. Determine the ash content on a portion of sample.

16. Calculation

16.1 Calculate the percentage of carbon black as follows:

Carbon black, $\% = [(A - B) - 0.01 \ CD)/(C - 0.01 \ CD)] \times 100$

where:

A =mass of crucible and residue after distilling, g,

B = mass of crucible, g,

C = mass of original sample, g, and

D = percentage of ash.

17. Precision and Bias

17.1 Precision and bias have not been determined.

Thermogravimetric Analyzer

18. Summary of Test Method

18.1 The prepared, dried sample is placed in a calibrated Thermogravimetric Analyzer (TGA) where it is weighed using the integral balance (See D 6370). The sample is heated to 575°C in an inert atmosphere to pyrolyze the rubber and other softeners. The atmosphere is then switched to air, combusting the carbon black. The difference in mass before and after the switch of gasses is the mass of the carbon black contained in the sample.

19. Significance and Use

- 19.1 The carbon black content of any vulcanized or unvulcanized compound may be determined by this method without use of a determinate sample.
- 19.2 Expertise in Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA) is necessary to the successful application of this test method.

20. Apparatus

20.1 *Thermogravimetric Analyzer*, maintained and operated in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

21. Preparation of Sample

21.1 Blend 200 g of dried sample obtained in accordance with 4.1 or 9.1 by passing it five times between the rolls of a laboratory mill. Maintain the roll temperature at $50 \pm 5^{\circ}$ C (122)



 \pm 9°F) and a distance between the rolls of 0.5 \pm 0.13 mm (0.020 \pm 0.005 in.). After blending, sheet the sample from the mill with the distance between the rolls set at 0.25 \pm 0.05 mm (0.010 \pm 0.002 in.). Dry approximately 2 g of the blended, thinly sheeted material for 1 h in the oven at 100 \pm 5°C (212 \pm 9°F). Keep the dried sheet in a desiccator until ready to weigh the samples.

22. Procedure

- 22.1 Set zero on the analyzer following manufacturer's instructions.
- 22.2 Place in the instrument pan 10 ± 3 mg of the prepared sample. Weigh accurately using integral instrument balance.
- 22.3 Under inert atmosphere heat the sample to $575 \pm 50^{\circ}$ C and hold until constant mass.
 - 22.4 Switch atmosphere to air and hold until constant mass.

23. Calculation

23.1 Calculate the percentage of carbon black in the samples as follows:

$$C = (A - B)(100)/I \tag{5}$$

where:

C = % carbon black in the sample,

 $A = \text{constant mass of sample at } 575^{\circ}\text{C}$ under inert gas,

 $B = \text{constant mass of sample at } 575^{\circ}\text{C} \text{ under air, and}$

I = initial mass of sample.

23.2 Alternatively, the instrument may perform this calculation automatically.

24. Precision and Bias

24.1 Precision and bias have not been determined.

25. Keywords

25.1 carbon black; masterbatch

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